

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:587
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2009
ISSUANCE OF MNIC
Deora Shri Milind Murla

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the constraints being faced by the Government to achieve the target set for the issuance of Multi-Purpose National Identity Cards (MNIC) in the country; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to remove the such constraints?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a)& (b): Following the amendment to the Citizenship Act 1955, a Pilot Project on Multi-Purpose National Identity Card (MNIC) has been implemented in selected areas of twelve (12) States and one (1) Union Territory to understand the complexities involved both in the process and technology for the identity (smart) cards. The Pilot Project has since been completed on March 31, 2008. Nearly 13 lakh identity cards have been issued to the citizens in the pilot areas.

The implementation of Pilot has highlighted the problems involved such as non-availability of data entry operators in regional languages, difficulties in capturing of photographs and finger biometrics, verification of citizenship due to weak document base specially in rural areas etc. Based on these learnings, the Government has decided that a National Population Register (NPR) would be created for all the residents with one reference date at the time of next decennial Census in 2011. The NPR will have information on specified characteristics of each individual and will include the photographs and finger biometrics of all those who are 18 years of age and above.